

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 EB-07 /087 W
----- 089780

P R 181903Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0036

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, BB, AO

SUBJ: CUBA-ANGOLA TRANSIT FLIGHTS

1. A SOURCE WHO HAS PROVIDED RELIABLE AFTER-THE-FACT INFORMATION ON ANGOLA-BOUND CUBAN FLIGHTS TOLD AN EMBOFF MID-AFTERNOON YESTERDAY (DEC. 17) THAT AN UNSCHEDULED CUBANA FLIGHT WAS EXPECTED APPROXIMATELY 1915 HRS. THAT EVENING. HOWEVER NO AIRCRAFT APPEARED AT THE EXPECTED TIME AND WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN NONE HAS SINCE TRANSITED BARBADOS. (THE LAST CUBANA FLIGHT OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE ARRIVED APPROX 1420 HRS DECEMBER 17, LEFT 45 MINUTES LATER AND WAS CLEARLY IN BONA FIDE SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL SERVICE.) THE NEXT SCHEDULED CUBANA COMMERCIAL FLIGHT IS NOT DUE UNTIL 23 DECEMBER. BASED ON LAST NIGHT'S NO-SHOW IT APPEARS THAT THE CUBAN AIRLIFT HAS STOPPED USING BARBADOS.

2. I DON'T EXPECT THE CUBANS TO EVEN ATTEMPT USE OF AIRPORTS ON ANTIGUA OR ST. LUCIA, THE ONLY OTHER SUITABLE STRIPS IN THE EMBASSY'S DISTRICT, NOR MARTINIQUE OR GUADALOUPE. GUESSING HERE IS THAT THEY WILL TRY PORT OF SPAIN OR GEORGETOWN.

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